

The Sun

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of peace averaging half the colossal price of actual fighting, actual blowing billions of dollars of explosives into vapor, tearing billions of dollars of steel shells into bits, casting billions of dollars of all manner of material wealth into the bottomless pit? Why even a third?

The war has stopped. With the war has stopped the need of the vast spending, which had to go on as long as there was fighting, which need not go on, must not go on, when there is no longer fighting. The way to stop this now needless spending is to stop it. Then do it!

Ambassador Jusserand's Portrait of the American Soldier in France.

Yesterday came the official announcement that the last of the German troops were beyond the French border.

A few weeks ago when Americans the friends of France and Frenchmen in America were joining at our City Hall in the celebration of LAFAYETTE'S birthday, the French Ambassador to the United States delivered an address from which we extract this striking tribute to the American soldier:

"A valiant army, the praise of which is on every lip; a youthful, good humored, cheerful army, whose every word is welcome in the castle and in the hut, and is offered just as heartily the best cake or the last crust; an immense army that ceaselessly grows—for month after month you send over to France double the number of men NAPOLEON had at Waterloo. Many French men have written on your map recall our presence here at the time of your fight for independence, chief among them that of LAFAYETTE. Many American names will in after time recall the splendid part you are taking in the deliverance of France and of the world."

We recall now with a pleasure which the readers of THE SUN will share this eloquent utterance of the statesman and scholar and constant friend and proficient student of our people and their institutions, who holds much the same relation to us with regard to France that was so long and so felicitously maintained by Viscount BAYNE as the representative of British understanding and good feeling.

Presidential Thanksgiving at the Close of War.

A citizen whose piety may be too far in advance of his patience sends this criticism:

"To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: It is evident that President Wilson believes, so far as any supernatural belief is concerned, that men and nations are allowed in this world to act according to their own free will; for in his address to Congress no reference whatever was made to the Deity as having acted or part in the cessation of hostilities, or indeed in any relation whatsoever. This, I think, is the first address of that kind wherein such omission has occurred. Am I right?"

"T. E. W."

"New York, November 14."

The United States had no President until six years after the close of the Revolutionary war. On April 19, 1783, the eighth anniversary of the battle of Lexington, the cessation of hostilities between Great Britain and the Colonies was proclaimed to the Continental Army. General Washington's orders read:

"The chaplains of the several brigades will render thanks to Almighty God for all his mercies, particularly for His overruling the wrath of man to His own glory, and causing the rage of war to cease among the nations."

Thanks to Providence for the peace following the war of 1812 were not expressed by President Madison until March 4, 1815, ten weeks after the Ghent Treaty. Then, setting apart the second Thursday of April as a day of thanksgiving, the President recommended that the people "unite their hearts and their voices in a free will offering to their Heavenly Benefactor of their homage of thanksgiving and of their songs of praise."

President Polk's proclamation announcing the signing of the treaty which ended the Mexican war contained no reference to the Deity. Several months afterward, on December 5, 1848, in his fourth annual message, President Polk declared that "the gratitude of the nation to the Sovereign Arbiter of All Human Events should be commensurate with the boundless blessings which we enjoy."

President Lincoln issued no proclamation in the few days that came between Lee's surrender and his own death. In his second inaugural address, delivered five weeks before Appomattox, when the end of the Confederacy was in sight, he said:

"The Almighty has His own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offenses, for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh.' If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the Providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until the wealth piled by the bondsmen of two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid with another drawn with the sword, so still it must be said, 'The

judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."

It was in this immortal address that Lincoln remarked boldly that both parties in the war "read the same Bible and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other." He felt, as he said a few days later in a letter to Mr. Wix, that this part of the address would not be popular:

"Men are not flattered by being shown that there is a difference of purpose between the Almighty and them. To deny this, however, in this case, is to deny that there is a God governing the world. It is a truth which I thought needed to be told, and as whatever of humiliation there is in it falls most directly on myself, I thought others might afford for me to tell it."

In President McKinley's proclamation for thanksgiving and prayer, issued on July 6, 1898, after the victories at Santiago, he called upon Americans reverently to "bow before the throne of Divine grace and give devout praise to God, who holdeth the nations in the hollow of His hands and worketh upon the marvels of His high will." Mr. McKinley, in his proclamation of August 12, 1898, announcing the signing of the protocol and the suspension of hostilities, did not deviate from formal diplomatic terms, but in his proclamation for Thanksgiving Day he invited the people to give thanks to Almighty God "for the glory of our victory and the hope of a righteous peace."

There are precedents enough for that which "T. E. W." considers an omission. President Wilson's Thanksgiving proclamation is yet to come; and after that there is the day of the signatures that will bind the world in peace.

New York's First Major.

Of the six men who have been elected to the office of Mayor of the present city of New York two only survive—Major McCLELLAN and Mayor HYLAN. ROBERT A. VAN WYCK, who occupied the City Hall from January, 1898, until January, 1902, is dead in Paris, where he went soon after he was defeated in 1901 as a candidate for the Supreme Court. His rejection at that election, which brought Low to the Mayor's office, was the personal condemnation visited on him by the electorate. The organization he had served was ousted from power in the city, and RICHARD CROKER, his boss, quit in defeat to live in Ireland, visiting this country only occasionally. An autocracy not less brutal than the Prussian was smashed at the polls and its leaders driven from power.

The opportunity consolidation offered to Mayor VAN WYCK was unusual. A man of different mould would have made an enduring name for himself through statesmanlike handling of the problems that presented themselves to the Mayor and the Board of Estimate. The charter was an experiment, but its awkward provisions might have been twisted to good service. The city had then a bi-cameral legislature, consisting of Council and Board of Aldermen, a bi-partisan Police Commission made up of four men, and a Board of Public Improvements to which board powers were entrusted. The men appointed as commissioners by the Mayor were removable at his pleasure for six months; the original Police Commissioners were TOM HAMILTON, of the late FREDERICK S. GIBBS's following, and W. E. PHILLIPS of Brooklyn, Republicans, and JOHN B. SEXTON, Democrats. All of them were party men first, and HAMILTON and PHILLIPS were removed by Mayor VAN WYCK because their partisanship did not match his. He named JACOB HESS and H. E. ABELL to succeed them. Then came the days of DEWEY, "the best Chief of Police New York ever had." In the Mayor's judgment, the abolition of the bi-partisan board by the Legislature, and the institution of the single headed commission we now have. FRED GIBBS never forgave Mayor VAN WYCK for his treatment of HAMILTON; whatever possibility of Tammany cooperation with the city Republicans there had been perished.

To get DEWEY out of power was the object of the Republicans, and the Police Commissioner was made removable by the Governor, as he now is, and ineligible to reappointment. Had DEWEY been appointed Commissioner the Governor would have removed him, but Tammany found a way to keep him in authority at headquarters. Colonel MIKE MURPHY was transferred from the presidency of the Health Department to the commissioner of police; he named DEWEY as his first Deputy, and in that capacity DEWEY ruled the force until SETH LOW came to power and Governor ODELL released Colonel PARKER from the State Department of Public Works to take the job.

"The people do not vote to put a man into office any more," said Mayor VAN WYCK in the gloomy days of his canvass for the Supreme Court; "they vote to keep somebody out of office." They voted to restore VAN WYCK to private life, with the title of Mayor indelibly imprinted on his record, and he quit the country for Paris. So far as the city that had done him honor and then rebuked him as few men have been rebuked was concerned, he ceased to exist on January 1, 1902.

His successor, Mayor LOW, was beaten for reelection, but held in honor by his fellow townsmen; McCLELLAN was elected twice, and now wears the uniform of the United States Army; GATYOR died in office; MITCHELL, rejected at the polls when he ran for a second term, was killed doing his part for his country, and

tributes were paid to his memory such as few men of his years have earned.

The New York of to-day is not the New York of BOB VAN WYCK's time.

As to Muzzles.

We answer in this conspicuous place the subjoined inquiry because our correspondent appears to share an erroneous belief that has won wide acceptance:

"To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: To settle a dispute with you kindly let us know if the 'muzzle' is off?"

"Can we now speak our minds about the political gang at Washington without being 'disloyal' or 'unpatriotic'?"

"I have heard a great many people express themselves in no uncertain way during the last few days, but they talk mostly in whispers, as if still afraid of the 'masters' in Washington, D. C."

"If it has not yet, when will the day of 'American freedom' arrive?" T. J. J. "New York, November 15."

Plainly, "T. J. J." believes that in the period which has elapsed since April 6, 1917, American citizens have worn muzzles designed to prevent them from discussing public affairs fully and freely.

So far as THE SUN has observed, nobody has worn such a muzzle. Specifically, THE SUN has not worn a muzzle, a fact to which its readers can give testimony and of which its files are the enduring evidence. Political arguments have gone forward without interruption, except as they have been interrupted by the absorption of interest and energy in the supreme task of winning victory over the Germans. As no restraint has been laid on orderly political discussion, there are no restraints to be removed.

If anybody has the notion that "American freedom" covers disloyal utterances, words designed to bring about breaches of the peace, and the like, he is utterly mistaken as to the significance of the phrase, and neither to-day nor so long as sanity rules will they be tolerated by a nation now fully awake to the meaning of its existence.

The astounding change from autocracy to democracy witnessed within the last week in Germany is scarcely less noteworthy than the equivalent transformation which occurred eleven days ago in our own beloved land.

If the German mind retains the old discipline, anarchy can be brought about only by making it verboten to pay attention to a verboten sign.

It is exceptionally interesting to recall that in the sixteenth century Henry IV. of France proposed a confederation to preserve world peace, known as the "Grand Design." Its plan somewhat resembles that now under discussion of a central congress with delegates from each signatory. But both because of the rivalry between his contemporary rulers and his own personal animosity, which always bristled into war, toward the Hapsburgs, the "Grand Design" of the French King failed utterly.

Resembling the American legend "From log cabin to White House" is the one of which democratic Germany can now boast: "From harness maker to Premier."

The German officer who remarked that "Hollander is William's Elba" should remember that Elba was but a stepping stone to St. Helena.

Crown Prince joins his father—The news.

Perhaps that is the ideal punishment for WILLHELM.

Many persons are curious to know whether the members of the National Council of Women of Germany ever protested to the German Government against the brutal treatment of the women of Belgium by the German soldiers.

The Kaiser and the kings depart and many doings tickle us, but where in all this upset tickle our friend the Grand Duke NICHOLAS?

Help to build huts to house the new watch on the Rhine!

THANK GOD!

Thanksgiving and Prayer to the Supreme Being.

To the Editor of THE SUN:—Sir: I'm afraid a good many of us in the excitement incident to receiving the wonderful tidings and good news forgot to thank the Almighty Father for that which He alone could and did make possible—peace—coming out of what was at one time the most frightful condition the world has ever known. Of course we all felt thankful for this, and perhaps now the people are in a more serious frame of mind.

Could not the President set aside this Sunday as a day of prayer and thanksgiving for this most fortunate event which has given us the lives that the world might be free? Every one should go to church on that day—if not in the morning surely in the evening.

Many of our dear ones have helped bring peace about by giving up their lives, and there are many, many others who will have to help over the rough spots when they get back.

Not a single person forget or neglect to give to the United War Work Campaign, for if ever the boys needed these organizations to look after them it will be in the coming months preparatory to their coming back home.

Let us give thanks in these two ways from now until the end of the drive. ONE WHO HAS MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

NEW YORK, November 15.

Crowns immortal.

The world is jarring to the thud of Europe's falling thrones, and crowns are rolling in the dust. With kings and crumbling bones: The blood stained crown of Prussia torn From Wilhelm's craven brow And Russia's tragic diadem Are useless baubles now.

But every town and village